

From: Darman, Leslie
To: [Chin, Lucita](#); [Matsumoto, Kimi](#); [Ward, W. Robert](#); [Logan, Paul](#); [Wehling, Carrie](#)
Subject: RE: PACC InjectionWell_Comments_3_20_13.doc
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 12:49:00 PM

DPP/AC



Leslie Darman
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of General Counsel
Tel: 202-564-5452

From: Chin, Lucita
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 1:50 PM
To: Matsumoto, Kimi; Ward, W. Robert; Logan, Paul; Darman, Leslie; Wehling, Carrie
Subject: FW: PACC InjectionWell_Comments_3_20_13.doc

DPP/AC



- Lucita

Lucita Chin
Associate Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop St.
Denver, CO 80202
303.312.7832

From: Deb [<mailto:dthomas@nemont.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 10:54 AM
To: Bowling, Linda; Chin, Lucita
Subject: PACC InjectionWell_Comments_3_20_13.doc

Thank you for accepting our comments. A hard copy will be sent by USPS.

March 27, 2013
Ms. Sadie Hoskie
Director, Water Program
US EPA, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

c/o: Bowling.Linda@epa.gov
Chin.Lucita@epa.gov

Re: Encana Oil and Gas Request for Aquifer Exemption WOGCC Docket 3-2013
EPA Ref: 8P-W-UIC

Dear Ms. Hoskie,

Thank you for considering our comments.

Our parent organization, Powder River Basin Resource Council (Powder River) raised concerns about the Madison aquifer exemption in a March 8, 2013 letter to the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (WOGCC), which was also sent to your office, and again in a March 16, 2013, letter sent to you. As you know from our previous communications, Powder River staff attended the WOGCC hearing on March 12, where the Commission voted 3 to 2 to approve the aquifer exemption, even though the WOGCC geologists voted against the aquifer exemption and raised questions that were not answered.

I am now writing on behalf of Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens (PACC), and our members, who are affiliated with Powder River. Most of the PACC members live and work in the Pavillion area of Fremont County, Wyoming. We are commenting because we are already severely impacted by contaminated groundwater and have concerns with the EnCana Oil and Gas proposed Madison aquifer exemption referenced above, because we fear it may increase our impacts from contaminated water.

According to the USGS, the Madison aquifer underlies eight states in the U.S. and Canada: Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. It is an important water resource in the northern plains states where surface water supplies are limited and population is increasing. Several of the larger communities and national parks in western South Dakota and Wyoming rely on water from the Madison aquifer. These include Rapid City, Spearfish, Hot Springs, and Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota and Gillette, Douglas, Sheridan, Buffalo, Devils Tower National Park, and the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. A growing population in western Montana may soon result in development of the Madison aquifer as a water supply. Declining water levels are a major issue for many of these communities. The response of Madison aquifer storage to changes in recharge rates is a critical issue because decreases in storage related to current drought conditions will continue if long-term climate change results in extended drought.

Our community is located on the Wind River Indian Reservation where water has always been a concern and where on-going drought conditions make our concerns even greater. In addition, many of our members in the Pavillion area are living with contaminated water that

the ATSDR has advised us not to drink or cook with. You are probably aware of the EPA Pavillion area Groundwater Contamination Investigation and Draft Report that address the water issues in our community.

Because of the impacts to drinking water and household water, clean water for drinking and cooking is provided to impacted residents. The water comes from Bighorn Water Company, located in Worland, Wyoming. The company provides water, harvested from the Madison aquifer, to thousands of people inside and outside of Wyoming.

Even before EnCana proposed the aquifer exemption, we were very worried about how the contamination introduced into the aquifer by mistake will impact the Madison aquifer. The proposed exemption would further threaten the aquifer by allowing contaminants to be introduced. This makes no sense to those of us who depend on this aquifer for clean water.

Part of the EPA investigation in our community has included a public comment period, which has been extremely valuable for all of the parties involved. We believe all people who depend on the Madison aquifer should have an opportunity to comment on the proposed Madison aquifer exemption and that more information and review are needed before a decision is made on the proposed exemption.

We ask that an aquifer exemption for the Madison aquifer not be granted by EPA and that a public comment period be included in the process before any final decisions are made.

Respectfully,



John Fenton, Chair
Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens
202 Indian Ridge Rd.
Pavillion, WY 82523

Cc: Governor Matt Mead
Wesley Martel, Tribal Council Vice-Chairman, Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Congressman Cynthia Lummis
Senator John Barrasso
Senator Mike Enzie
Wyoming Senator Eli Bebout
Wyoming Representative Rita Campbell
Bob King, WOGCC
Todd Parfitt, WDEQ

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